



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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## **Department Reaches Settlement Agreement with Safety-Kleen**

Sacramento - The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced that it has reached a settlement agreement with Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc., which includes \$38,500 in penalties, for hazardous waste violations at its facility located at 1000 South I Street in Reedley, California.

Safety-Kleen's Reedley facility was cited by DTSC investigators for the following violations:

- C Failure to properly analyze the hazardous waste generated by the activated carbon filtration system prior to shipping it to the company's Buttonwillow facility for treatment and disposal in August of 1998. A roll-off bin containing this hazardous waste caught fire shortly after it was received at the Safety-Kleen Buttonwillow facility.
- C Installation of a different, and larger, activated carbon filtration system on the thermal cooker before receiving approval from DTSC for a permit modification the company submitted in October 1999. A thermal cooker solidifies waste material coming from the treatment tank prior to disposal. The application for the permit modification was subsequently approved by DTSC in December 1999.
- C Installation and use of an activated carbon filtration system on the thermal cooker without prior authorization from DTSC in 1998.
- C Failure to give DTSC advance notice of the company's planned installation of an activated carbon filtration system on a thermal cooker in 1998.

Although Safety-Kleen denied liability for the hazardous waste violations found at its Reedley facility, the settlement agreement included a DTSC imposed \$38,500 penalty.

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Safety-Kleen, a Wisconsin-based corporation that collects, processes, recycles, and disposes of hazardous and nonhazardous waste, filed a bankruptcy petition in June 2000. Because the hazardous waste violations discovered by DTSC investigators at the Safety-Kleen Reedley facility occurred prior to the filing of the company's bankruptcy petition, the payment of the \$38,500 penalty becomes an allowed claim into Safety-Kleen's bankruptcy proceedings under the terms of the settlement. Payment of the penalty to DTSC will be made in the amount and priority established by the Bankruptcy Code and the Debtor's Plan of Reorganization.

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***DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting its reduction.***

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*"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)."*